

of the honor's association, Phi Theta Kappa. In addition, she served as the president of the Farm Bureau Chapter, president of the Plainsmen Shooters Club, and was a member of the Post-Secondary Agriculture Students at NJC.

In her community, Ms. Nissen volunteered at the Logan County Literacy Coalition, and was also awarded with the Rising Star distinction among community college students in Colorado. Ms. Nissen recently graduated from NJC with an associate's degree in general studies. In the fall, she plans to major in agricultural business at Texas Tech University.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Erin Nissen. She demands excellence in every area of her life, which has helped her to win one of the most prestigious agriculture awards in the nation—an award well deserved.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JAMES
AURORA

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Mr. James Aurora for his exceptional service to his community and the youth.

James Aurora is a third generation of owners of the now famous Sonny's Collision Specialists in Brooklyn, New York. This renowned business has been serving the community for 60 years and has gained a distinct reputation for quality customer service.

Mr. Aurora has built an operation that employs 25 professionals that offer clients guaranteed personal attention. In the years that Mr. Aurora has been operating Sonny's Collision Specialists he has never known any unsatisfied customers. Every customer of Sonny's has only experienced top notch service in the most expeditious manner.

Jimmy Aurora knows the importance of giving. Sonny's is not only a staple in the community for their expertise in auto body collisions, but they are famous for their giving spirit. Mr. Aurora on a yearly basis has sponsored cricket teams, baseball leagues, and boys clubs, along with donating thousands of dollars towards Autism awareness and The American Cancer Society. He has not only provided a necessary service to his community but he has found the means to give more to those in dire need.

Mr. Aurora lives by the company's motto: "Perfection is not an accident." Jimmy proudly represents his heritage and family legacy by ensuring that Sonny's Collision Specialists continues to be a leader and trendsetter in auto body collision work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. James Aurora.

ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE OF
THE UNITED STATES REAUTHOR-
IZATION ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, August 1, 2011

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2480, "The Administrative Conference of the United States Reauthorization Act of 2011," which authorizes \$2.75 million in appropriations to the Administrative Conference of the United States for each of the fiscal years from 2012 through 2014. The Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) is considered both an independent agency and a federal advisory committee, and is charged with providing guidance to Congress on matters of administrative law. The recommendations put forth by the ACUS have resulted in significant savings and increases the efficiency of federal agencies.

As a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, I have the privilege of having worked closely with the Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS) over the years and become familiarized with many of their initiatives. ACUS is a federal agency charged with making recommendations for the improvement of administrative agencies and their procedures, particularly with respect to efficiency and fairness.

The ACUS was established 50 years ago by President John F. Kennedy and became a permanent independent agency in less than 4 years. The purpose of the ACUS is to develop recommendations for improving procedures by which federal agencies administer regulatory, benefit, and other government programs; the ACUS has served as a private-public think tank that conducts basic research on how to improve the regulatory and legal process. It has broad jurisdiction over administrative procedure to study the efficiency, adequacy, and fairness of the administrative procedure used by administrative agencies in carrying out administrative programs, and make recommendations to administrative agencies, collectively or individually, and to the President, Congress, or the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Further, the ACUS facilitates the interchange among administrative agencies of information potentially useful in improving administrative procedure, collects information and statistics from administrative agencies and has published extensive reports evaluating and improving administrative procedure.

The members of the ACUS represent both the public and private sectors. Individuals from private sector members are generally attorneys and scholars selected to ensure broad representation of the views of private citizens and utilize diverse experience. Over the years its membership spans the ideological spectrum. For example, Justice Antonin Scalia, before his appointment to the bench, served as the chair of ACUS from 1972 to 1974. Justice Breyer was a member of ACUS and actively participated in its activities from 1981 to 1994. In the past, both Justices Breyer and Scalia testified in strong support of ACUS. According to Justice Breyer, "The Administrative Conference is unique in that it develops its recommendations by bringing together at least

four important groups of people: top-level agency administrators; professional agency staff; private (including "public interest") practitioners; and academicians. ACUS will typically commission a study by an academician . . . who often has the time to conduct the study. . . . The professor will spend time with agency staff. . . . The professor's draft will be reviewed . . . by private practitioners, who bring to it a critically important practical perspective. The upshot is likely to be a work-product that draws upon many different points of view, that is practically helpful and that commends general acceptance." (Letter from Justice Stephen Breyer to Sen. CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Chair, Subcomm. on Administrative Oversight and the Courts of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Aug. 21, 1995).

The ACUS has made many government wide recommendations; among its most influential recommendations have been ACUS's proposals facilitating judicial review of agency decisions and eliminating various technical impediments to such review. They recommended a model administrative civil penalty statute that has served as the basis for dozens of pieces of legislation. The ACUS has developed and promoted procedures implementing the Negotiated Rulemaking Act, which encourages consensual resolution in a process that takes into account the needs of various affected interests. In addition, ACUS is credited with playing a prominent role in improving the nation's legal system by issuing recommendations designed "to eliminate excessive litigation costs and long delays." For example, Congress, in response to an ACUS recommendation, passed the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act in 1990, which established a framework for agencies to resolve administrative litigation through alternative dispute resolution. It has been noted that half of the budget of ACUS is devoted to trying to find ways to reduce, or eliminate government litigation within and by the Government. The ACUS saves tax payers dollars and in a time of economic crisis every penny counts.

The ACUS serves to focus attention on the need for the federal government to be made more efficient, less big, and more accountable. It was viewed as one of the leading federal proponents of practical ways to reduce administrative litigation. In this regard, ACUS actively promoted information-technology initiatives, such as developing methods by which the public could participate electronically in agency rulemaking proceedings to increase public access to government information and foster greater openness in government operations.

We have witnessed a number of successes under the ACUS. The ACUS is a vital tool in improving upon a process. There has been a lot of talk on the Hill of late about efficiency, streamlining process, and reducing costs. The fundamental purpose of the ACUS is to find out how to ensure that our government is operating in the most effective manner possible. The more efficiently we are able to operate the lower our cost. It has been estimated that ACUS saved the federal government and the private sector many multiples of its expenditure over the years it was in operation. Just one agency alone—the Social Security Administration—estimated that ACUS's recommendation to change that agency's appeals process would result in approximately \$85 million in savings. ACUS helped federal agencies

to implement the Administrative Dispute Resolution Act of 1990, which resulted in savings estimated to be many millions of dollars. The President of the American Arbitration Association asserted that ACUS's encouragement of ADR saved "millions of dollars that would otherwise be frittered away in litigation costs."

Accordingly, the elimination of ACUS in 1995 was described by several observers as being "penny-wise, pound foolish." Even after its demise in 1995, Congress continued to assign ACUS various responsibilities apparently unaware of the Conference's termination. Finally, after a 15-year hiatus, ACUS was reauthorized and appropriated funding.

Currently, President Obama nominated Paul R. Verkuil to serve as chair of ACUS in November 2009 and he was confirmed by the Senate in March 2010. The ACUS formally resumed operations in April 2010.

Then since its recent Reauthorization the ACUS has started to do what it does best figuring out ways to decrease expenses and increase efficiency. Current cost-saving projects underway at ACUS include the following:

A study on the use of video hearings in administrative agencies and how they can generate "significant savings;" a study on rulemaking that focuses on the legal and logistical issues presented by transitioning from a paper-based system to an electronic system for handling rulemaking comments, an examination into how international regulatory cooperation could be improved and lead to trade harmonization.

Over the course of its existence, ACUS has promulgated approximately 200 recommendations to improve the administrative process, many of which were implemented, which, in turn, helped save taxpayers many millions of dollars. ACUS is an invaluable instrument established by us that has resulted in significant improvements to federal administrative law.

ROBERT POLLARD TRIBUTE

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TIPTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor to rise in tribute of Dr. Robert Pollard, for being recognized in "Great Stories on Halls in Walls," a program that he founded.

The Great Stories on Halls in Walls project is a great way to appreciate and share the lives and stories of the alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Adams State College. Funds raised from the donations for these dedications are given to the Adams State College Foundation to provide active leadership, direction and expertise in college fund-raising efforts.

The first member in his family to attend college, Pollard attended Adams State and returned to Alamosa after serving in the U.S. Army in the Colorado National Guard Unit. Mr. Pollard later received his doctorate degree from Stanford University.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Robert Pollard is a man who should be recognized for his outstanding and generous character, which is worthy of praise and admiration.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. HARVEY LAWRENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Harvey Lawrence and his exceptional service to the public health of his community and his ongoing public service career.

Mr. Lawrence began his career by attaining a Master of Science degree in Management Science and Policy Analysis from Harriman college and SUNY Stony Brook. He is also a graduate of the Johnson & Johnson/UCLA Health Care Executive Certificate Program.

Mr. Lawrence has been serving in the capacity of President and CEO of the Brownsville Multi-Service Family Health Center since January 2009. Before his ascent to President, Mr. Lawrence served as the Corporation's Executive Vice President and COO. Working with the Brownsville Family Health Center since 1994, Mr. Lawrence has been responsible for most of the new initiatives and expansions the corporation has taken on.

Using his vast experience in public finance and non-profit development, Mr. Lawrence has been able to accelerate the growth of this corporation and provide more services to the public. Mr. Lawrence began his public service career as Management Trainee at the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey and quickly gained experience in NYC's Office of Economic Development.

Mr. Lawrence is a former non-profit developer for affordable housing and vice president in the investment banking, public finance and real estate divisions of the former Manufacturers Hanover Trust Bank. Using his knowledge, Mr. Lawrence maintains his position as the executive director of the city's industrial commercial incentive board and senior finance/development director at the NYC Public Development Corporation.

Mr. Lawrence is a man of exceptional character and one that has been humbled through his ability to serve those with greater needs.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the life and accomplishments of Mr. Harvey Lawrence.

IN HONOR OF THE WOMEN'S CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CLUB

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Women's Civic Improvement Club, WCIC, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. It is my pleasure to recognize the Women's Civic Improvement Club's dedication to promoting the professional and personal growth of members of the Sacramento region. I ask all of my colleagues to join me in honoring their leadership.

The Women's Civic Improvement Club began in 1936 as the Negro Women's Civic

Improvement Club. The Club was created to provide housing for African American women that had moved to Sacramento to work at the McClellan Air Force Base. At the time, racial segregation and the financial devastation of the Great Depression made finding a safe home next to impossible for many women. In 1945, the Club's Board of Directors signed incorporation papers and the name was changed, making it the WCIC that we know of today. Throughout all of the changes our nation has faced since 1936, the WCIC has remained strong and relevant to those of us in Sacramento.

Over the course of the last 75 years, the WCIC has evolved into an organization that helps people from low-income and disadvantaged families. The Club has expanded to include several new programs, helping individuals of all ages grow through community involvement. Their congregate meal program provides food and recreational activities for senior citizens, allows members of the program to get a healthy meal, and provides opportunities to socialize and be involved in the community. Moreover, the Playmate Head Start Program provides quality childcare to its members and has maintained an excellent focus on healthy child development.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Women's Civic Improvement Club on their 75th anniversary, and to their outstanding commitment to improve our community. I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating them on their 75 years of success.

PROCLAMATION

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, August 2, 2011

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, forty one years ago a virtuous woman of God accepted her calling to serve in the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority in Atlanta, Georgia; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten began her career with a heart for the people and today retires as a longtime Assistant Director who has touched the lives of many; and

Whereas, this phenomenal woman has shared her time and talents, giving the citizens of our District a friend to help those in need, a fearless leader and a servant to all who wants to insure that the system works for everyone; and

Whereas, Mrs. Sarah Fitten is a cornerstone in our community that has enhanced the lives of thousands for the betterment of our District and Nation; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize Mrs. Sarah Fitten on her retirement from the Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority and to wish her well in her new endeavors;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim July 30, 2011 as Mrs. Sarah Fitten Day in the 4th Congressional District.

Proclaimed, this 30th day of July, 2011.